

Sequestration Takes an Ax to West Virginia

February 26, 2013

This week, instead of addressing our long-term debt and deficit, Congress has continued to kick the can down the road, and the consequences of inaction will finally come home to West Virginia. Sequestration will take an ax to essential services West Virginians rely on every day. Our safety, our commitment to our children and seniors, and our investment in our economic future are all in jeopardy.

Top 20 Cuts to West Virginia

Safety

- 1) Military Readiness: The Department of Defense would furlough approximately 2,000 civilian employees in West Virginia alone, reducing total payments by about \$9.9 million. In addition, the Army's base operation funding would be cut by about \$1.4 million.¹
- 2) Law Enforcement and Public Safety: West Virginia would lose approximately \$96,000 in Justice Assistance Grants, limiting funding for law enforcement, prosecution, court services, crime prevention, drug treatment and enforcement.¹
- 3) First Responders: More than \$110,000 in eliminated FIRE Grants would prevent first responders from obtaining critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources necessary to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related disasters.²
- 4) FDA Food Programs: Drastic cuts to the FDA's 2,100 food safety inspection facilities, 26 of which are located in West Virginia, could raise the risk of safety incidents and lead to more outbreaks of foodborne illnesses like salmonella or E. coli. if safety officials are furloughed.³
- 5) Mine Safety: The MSHA would complete 100% of Coal inspections, but would reduce inspections for Metal Nonmetal mines and impact inspections, technical investigations, respirable coal mine dust inspections, and accident prevention investigations.4

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sequester-factsheets/West-Virginia.pdf
 Based on updated calculations from: http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=5704

 $^{^3\} http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/MPI_Directory_Establishment_Name.pdf$

 $^{{}^4}http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/ht-full.cfm?method=hearings.view\&id=17d3dc99-c065-4bec-a7c8-cfd374bf41a3dc99-c065-6bec-a7c8-cfd374bf41a3dc99-c065-6bec-a7c8-cfd374bf41a3dc99-c065-6bec-a7c8-cfd374bf41a3dc99-c065-6bec-a7c8-cfd374bf41a3dc9-c065-6bec-a7c9-cfd374bf41a3dc9-c065-6bec-a7c9-cfd374bf41a3dc9-c065-6bec$

- **6) Federal Aviation Administration:** \$600 million in cuts to the FAA's budget would result in furloughed Air traffic controllers in West Virginia, more than 90 minute delays on flights to smaller airports, and closure of airports with fewer than 150,000 flights a year. ⁵⁶
 - Overnight shifts would be eliminated at Yeager Airport in Charleston and Tri-State in Huntington.
 - Air Traffic Control Facilities would be closed at:
 - o North Central West Virginia Airport
 - Wheeling Ohio County Airport
 - o Tri-State Milton J. Ferguson Field
 - o Greenbrier Valley Airport
 - o Mid-Ohio Valley Regional
- 7) **Public Health:** \$177,000 in cuts would diminish West Virginia's ability to respond to public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.¹
 - West Virginia would lose about \$430,000 in grants that prevent and treat substance abuse, resulting in 600 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs.¹
- 8) Clean Air and Clean Water: Over \$2 million would be cut from environmental programs that promote water and air quality, as well as those that eliminate pollution caused by pesticides and hazardous waste. West Virginia would lose an additional \$488,000 in grants for fish and wildlife protection.¹

Jobs

- 9) Job Search Assistance: \$247,000 would be cut from programs that provide job search assistance, recommendations, placement, and training opportunities. Roughly 9,230 West Virginian jobseekers wouldn't get the help they need to find well-paying jobs.¹
- **10) Veterans Employment and Training:** More than \$50,000 in cuts would prevent roughly 300 veterans seeking employment from receiving job search assistance.⁷
- **11) Work-Study Jobs:** Financial aid would be cut for 200 low-income students in West Virginia who need the assistance to pay college fees. 60 additional students would no longer be eligible for the work-study jobs that help them work their way through college.¹

 $^{^{5}\,}http://www.faa.gov/news/updates/media/Facilities_Could_Be_Closed.pdf$

 $^{^6\,}http://www.faa.gov/news/updates/media/Facilities_Where_Shifts_Could_Be_Eliminated.pdf$

Seniors, Women & Children, and Veterans

- 12) National Guard: The total impact of sequestration to the West Virginia National Guard is estimated at \$30 million. About 962 people out of a force of 2,500 will be directly affected. 56 valuable Guardsmen will be laid off immediately upon announcement of sequestration. Over 900 Guardsmen and women will be furloughed for 22 days over the final six months of the fiscal year. Military installations and units across West Virginia would also be impacted. As an example, Camp Dawson faces an unknown, but significant, reduction in funding after the sequester.
- 13) Senior Nutrition: \$160,000 in cuts would mean significant reductions in nutrition programs to seniors in rural areas and nutrition services to seniors through food deliveries like "Meals on Wheels." ¹
- 14) Childhood Immunization Grants: Significant cuts to the Center for Disease Control immunization programs would prevent several hundred children in West Virginia from receiving life-saving vaccinations.
- 15) National Breast Cancer Early Detection Programs: More than \$150,000 in reduced funding to the Center for Disease Control would lead to at least 600 fewer women in West Virginia receiving cancer screenings.⁷
- **16) Violence Against Women:** \$39,000 in reduced funding for programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence would leave 200 fewer victims served. 1

Education

- 17) Head Start: \$2.98 million in cuts would reduce educational access for 415 three and four-year-old students, and would potentially cut over 180 educational jobs.
- 18) Rural Education Funding: \$132,000 in cuts would eliminate essential technology services for 6,700 students and teachers would see professional development drastically cut.8
- 19) Special Education Grants: \$3.88 million in cuts would affect 1,985 special needs students and eliminate 47 special education teachers' jobs.
- 20) Title I Grants: \$5.8 million in reduced funding would cut 79 teaching jobs and impact 7,705 low-income families and students who rely on these grants to help them meet educational performance standards.

Based on updated calculations from: http://www.harkin.senate.gov/documents/pdf/500ff3554f9ba.pdf

⁸ http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/CBPP_Sequester_Impact_States.pdf
9 http://www.nationaltitleiassociation.org/blogpost/464802/160124/State-by-State-Impact-of-Sequester-onTitle-I